(c) whether the World Bank has recently sought report regarding qualitative quake rehabilitation Programmes; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have sought report from the State Government about the relief and rehabilitation progress after the quake and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat have informed that the State Government had signed loan agreements with the World Bank and with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The revised requirement of assistance from the World Bank is Rs.3509 crore and from the ADB is Rs.1680 crore. The State Government have also informed that an amount of Rs.724 crore from the World Bank and Rs.352.05 crore from the ADB has so far been received out of which an expenditure of Rs.627.14 crore and Rs.217.97 crore, respectively, have been incurred.

(d) The State Government have informed that expenditure of Rs. 684.10 crore on relief activities and Rs.985.70 crore on reconstruction activities, have so far been incurred.

Passage of wheat exported to Afghanistan through Pakistan

†2091. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has threatened not to allow passage for Indian wheat exported to Afghanistan *via* Pakistan alleging the wheat to be of substandard quality and infected with weevils; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and the quantum of wheat sent to Afghanistan *via* Pakistan, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There have been reports that Pakistan has not been willing to provide transit facility for the humanitarian assistance of wheat, India has committed to offer to Afghanistan. The Government has been in touch with various UN agencies to work out modalities to send this assistance. As part of Indian UN Aid for Afghanistan, the Government has not approached Pakistan for transit facility.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Government has made it clear that such claims are ill-founded and self-serving. The Government is continuing to explore various options in order to send the wheat to Afghan people as early as possible. So far no wheat has been supplied to Afghanistan.

Price control regime under new drug policy

2092. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new drug policy has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the fresh criteria laid down to bring/retain a drug under the price control regime;

(c) the steps proposed towards liberalisation of the drug industry and the mechanism evolved to counter attempts at cartelization by drug manufacturers, to ensure availability of essential and life saving medicines of good quality, at reasonable prices; and

(d) the specific measures outlined to attract additional investments and to achieve higher national R & D expenditure in the drug industry.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002", copies of which are available in Parliament library. The main objectives of this policy are *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable price within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the National Essential Drug List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various health programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases and, if necessary so to do in public interest, price of any formulation, including a non-Scheduled formulation, would be fixed or revised by the Government.

(d) A manufacturer producing a new drug, not produced elsewhere if developed through indigenous R & D or producing a drug in the country by a process developed through indigenous R&D and Patented under the Indian Patent Act, 1970 would be eligible for exemption from price control. Similarly, a formulation involving a new delivery system developed through indigenous